

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 09444 301116Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 DODE-00
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R 301040Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2422
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 9444

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP PFOR BM TH
SUBJECT: THAI/BURMESE RELATIONS

REF: A) RANGOON 1073; B) RANGOON

1. APPRECIATE INDICATION IN REFTELS THAT SENIOR FIGURES
IN GUB HAVE CONTINUED INTEREST AND DESIRE FOR CLOSER
COOPERATION AND BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH RTG. SAN YU'S
EXPRESSION OF WARM PERSONAL REGARD FOR KRIANGSAK WAS
ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGING.

2. WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BUILD TOO MUCH IN ERRMS OF THIRD PARTY
INTERMEDIARIES ON NSC SECRETARY GENERAL SIT'S REQUEST THAT
AMBASSADOR LAVETT CONVEY TO GUB THE SINCERITY OF RTG'S DESIRE
TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BURMA. WE DON'T DOUBT SINCERITY
OF RTG NOR OF ITS SENIOR OFFICERS. HOWEVER, RTG OFFICERS,
INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK, OFTEN USE VISITORS TO CONVEY
GENERAL MESSAGES TO OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTRY THEY ARE VISITING.
SIT'S COMMENTS REPORTED IN REFTEL ARE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF
RTG VIEWS WHICH HE SHARES WITH MOST SENIOR THAI. WE
DOUBT RTG WAS USING THIS CHANNEL TO PASS ANY SPECIAL
MESSAGE TO GUB. AS REF A INDICATES, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

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BAUER WAS GIVEN NO SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR GUB WHEN HE CALLED
ON KRIANGSAK SHORTLY BEFORE RECENT TRIP TO BURMA.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE
CAUGHT UP IN TRYING TO GET THAI AND BURMESE TO USE THIRD
PARTY CHANNELS FOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THEMSELVES.
THIS IS UNNECESSARY AND, AT A TIME WHEN AIM OF PRIME

MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S POLICY IS TO ESTABLISH DIRECT, HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENTAL CONTACTS WITH GUB, COULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT THAI AND BURMESE ARE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY AS THEY DID RE KRIANGSAK'S WISH TO VISIT RANGOON. IN ADDITION TO KRIANGSAK'S PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH SAN YU, AND COLONEL TIN OO, LT GEN THUANTHONG SUWANNATHAT, KRINAGSAK'S INFORMAL CHEF DE CABINET, ALSO SERVES AS POINT OF CONTACT AND CONDUIT TO SENIOR GUB OFFICERS. WE SHOULD NOT NOW GET INVOLVED IN ENCOURAGING THIRD PARTY INVOLVEMENT, WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THAI AND BURMESE MAY WELL ON OCCASION USE US OR OTHERS TO COMMUNICATE WHEN IT SERVES THEIR PURPOSES. WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

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